

COUNTY COURTHOUSE

311 Grand Avenue, Suite #105
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038
Phone: (360) 676-6690
TTY: (360) 738-4555

**COUNCILMEMBER**

Kathy Kershner

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

FROM THE DESK OF COUNCILMEMBER KATHY KERSHNER

September 13, 2013

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20460

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General, Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Administrator McCarthy and Attorney General Holder:

As Chair of the Whatcom County Council, I am writing to you today to express my opposition to your departments' inflammatory lawsuit against Rader Farms, Inc., a business located in Lynden, Washington.

This is the second time that a federal agency has sought action against this job-creating business in my county. With state and federal governing bodies not doing enough to lower our nation's unemployment rate, I find this action against a private land owner to be an aggressive and offensive move.

The Environmental Protection Agency and Department of Justice have no right to hold the American Dream hostage.

Unnecessary and senseless regulation is an insidious job killer. With unemployment above 5% at the local, state and federal levels, there must be a line drawn in the sand to protect Whatcom County employers and land owners. This is especially critical because it is widely known by Washington State's Congressional delegation, and our citizens, that Washington State does not just feed the nation, it feeds the world.

There is a clear difference between maintaining the strongest possible environmental standards and knowingly killing jobs and businesses. The EPA and DOJ need to apply balance and common sense. You cannot impede progress in the name of environmental action that yields little for our environment and even less for our people.

Job creation is the number one issue that Whatcom County families face. Your complete disregard for the livelihood of every day workers is unacceptable, yet you continue to knowingly turn a blind eye to the realities that businesses and families face.

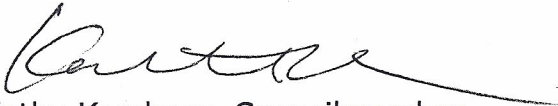
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This direct action against Rader Farms, Inc. is part of a long list of roadblocks that government agencies have put up that stop jobless residents in Whatcom County from having the chance to pay their bills and feed their children.

In your efforts to penalize the agriculture industry and others, the EPA and DOJ are negatively impacting minorities, in particular, Latinos, as they are suffering from the lowest unemployment rates. Dis-enfranchisement of minorities and anyone seeking a job will not be tolerated by me or the Whatcom County government. Businesses and workers deserve better.

Today I call upon your departments to drop all action against Rader Farms, Inc. I will be working with my Congressional delegation to see to it that not one more job is lost to your agencies. Running a business that creates jobs, and a worker who works hard for a wage to feed their children, are not to be compromised at any time, by any government agency in this economy that you have so willfully helped stifle.

Sincerely,



Kathy Kershner, Councilmember
Whatcom County Council

C: Senator Patty Murray
Senator Maria Cantwell
Congressman Rick Larsen
Congresswoman Suzan DelBene
Jack Louws, County Executive
Whatcom County Councilmembers
Dana Brown-Davis, Clerk of the Council
Correspondence